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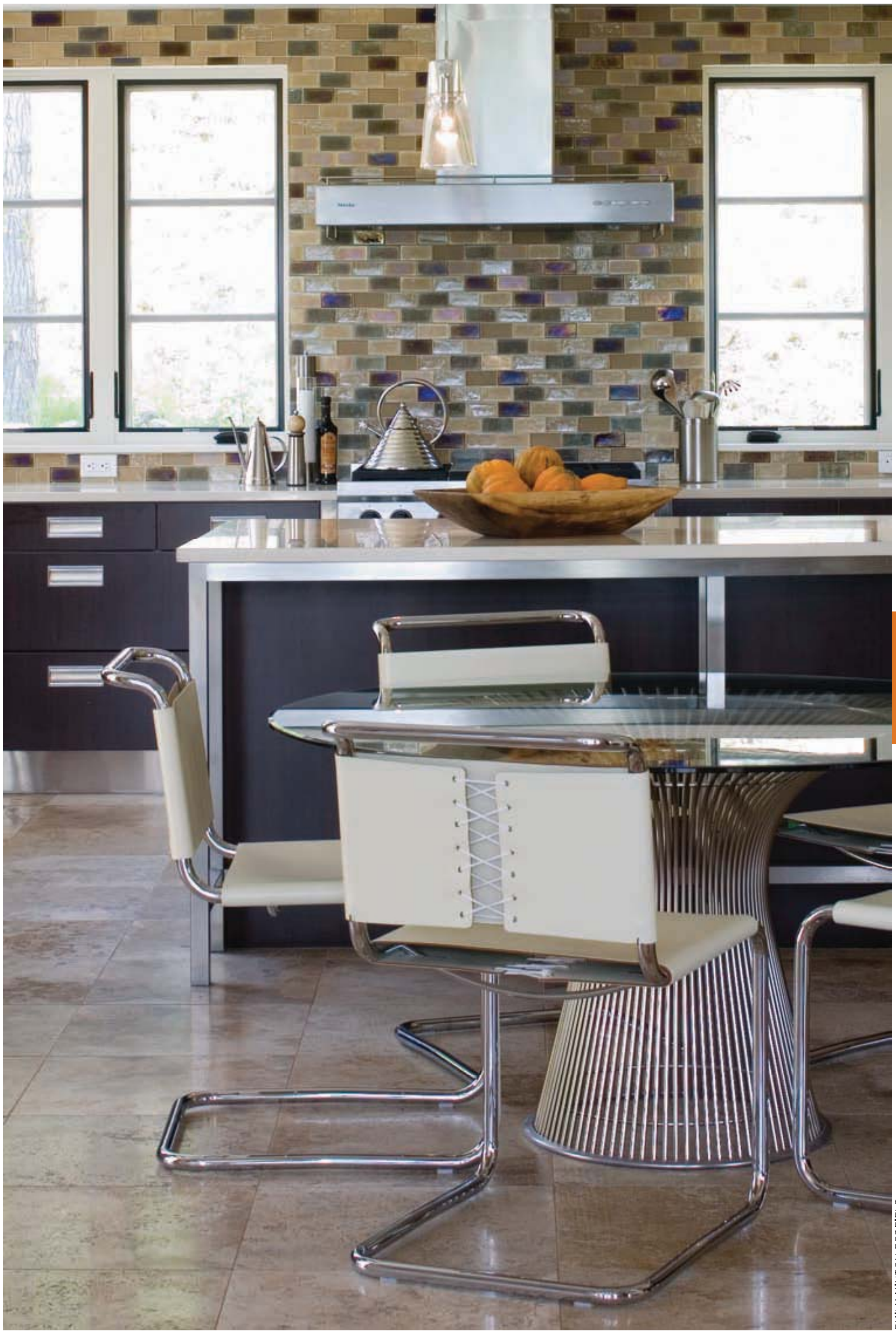

EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

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Recognizing that some things are meant to be, a Denver-based couple shelves their traditional design sensibility and moves into a contemporary home destined for them.

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KITCHEN OF THE YEAR

64 **Hot Kitchens**
These five spaces dazzle with bold style and beautiful details, but also prove that in a successful kitchen, beauty and function go hand in hand. You'll love the range of styles—from sleek to classic to mod—and you'll find the smart design solutions refreshing.

ON THE COVER:
A sculpturally elegant concrete island pairs with custom lyptus cabinets in a Boulder kitchen that's cool and clean.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY J. CURTIS.

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Get the scoop on the latest products for your home, like this month's hot discovery: FCLstyle.com, a new online boutique from Pierre Deux. ColoradoHomesMag.com shares our favorite picks from this chic new collection of home furnishings and accessories, all inspired by the French aesthetic and grouped into five styles to suite your taste (think "Crème Fraiche" for neoclassical whimsy, "Country Chic" for rustic elegance, "Bohemian" for romantic and eclectic flourishes...). Très belle.

MICHAEL PECK

WinThis!

Visit our home page each month for a chance to win a new goody. Prizes range from must-have products to home design services. This month: **a free design consultation with Outdoor Craftsmen, Boulder-based experts on everything outdoors, from landscape design to water features to outdoor lighting.**

GO BEHIND THE SCENES AT SOME OF THE STATE'S BEST HOME DESIGN HAPPENINGS WITH THE TEAM AT *CH&L*.

This month, take an insider's look at the 2009 awards celebration for the American Society of Landscape Architects Colorado. Browse through photos from the party and be inspired by the stunning projects that collected honors (like the '08 Merit Award-winner in residential design, pictured above: "Courtyard Oasis" by Courtney McRickard of Three Sixty Design).

There's a new way to enjoy *CH&L.*

Now each issue of the magazine can be found online as an enhanced digital edition, full of new Web-savvy features. Find just what you're looking for by entering a key word into the search function; share the issue with a friend with the click of a button; and zoom in on beautiful photos of Colorado homes.

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Letter

The party's in the kitchen...

HOWARD SOKOL

NOT LONG AGO, my roommate and I hosted a gathering, and all evening long, no one budged from the kitchen. Friends were elbow to elbow. The din mounted. We even turned down the lights because it started to get warm. And yet the neighboring living room, sunroom and backyard remained all but empty. Not even strategically-placed plates of appetizers could entice our guests to visit those peripheral spaces.

What explains this phenomenon?

The kitchen is truly a space apart. In no other room of the house do people congregate so naturally—and linger so long. And it's often said that during a home hunt, the kitchen single-handedly makes—or breaks—the deal. The room is the main stage for housewarming events, the hub of family activity and the longstanding heart of the home.

In this issue, we bring you a round-up of some kitchens (p. 64) that get it resoundingly right. Because function must come first in any kitchen worth its salt, these rooms pair good looks with smart design. You'll enjoy the wide variety of styles—edgy, classic, modern, sleek—and appreciate the clever design features. (In one kitchen, the designer staged a role-play so she could measure the homeowners at work and create a layout custom-tailored for them. In another, traditional forms were transformed into sculpture: a shapely range hood makes a statement and an island takes on the curves of a Steinway.)

No matter why you gravitate toward the kitchen—maybe your culinary propensities lead you there, or perhaps that's just where the party is—we hope you find something here to savor. Enjoy.

Warmly,

Caroline Eberly
Managing Editor

p.s. *In our June/July issue, we failed to recognize the work of Ray Paschal of Caldera Construction, Inc. (970-927-1191) as developer and general contractor in the contemporary remodel of the Aspen home featured in "Fresh Start." Paschal and Caldera Construction, Inc. played a big part in the design and construction process, and we regret the omission.*

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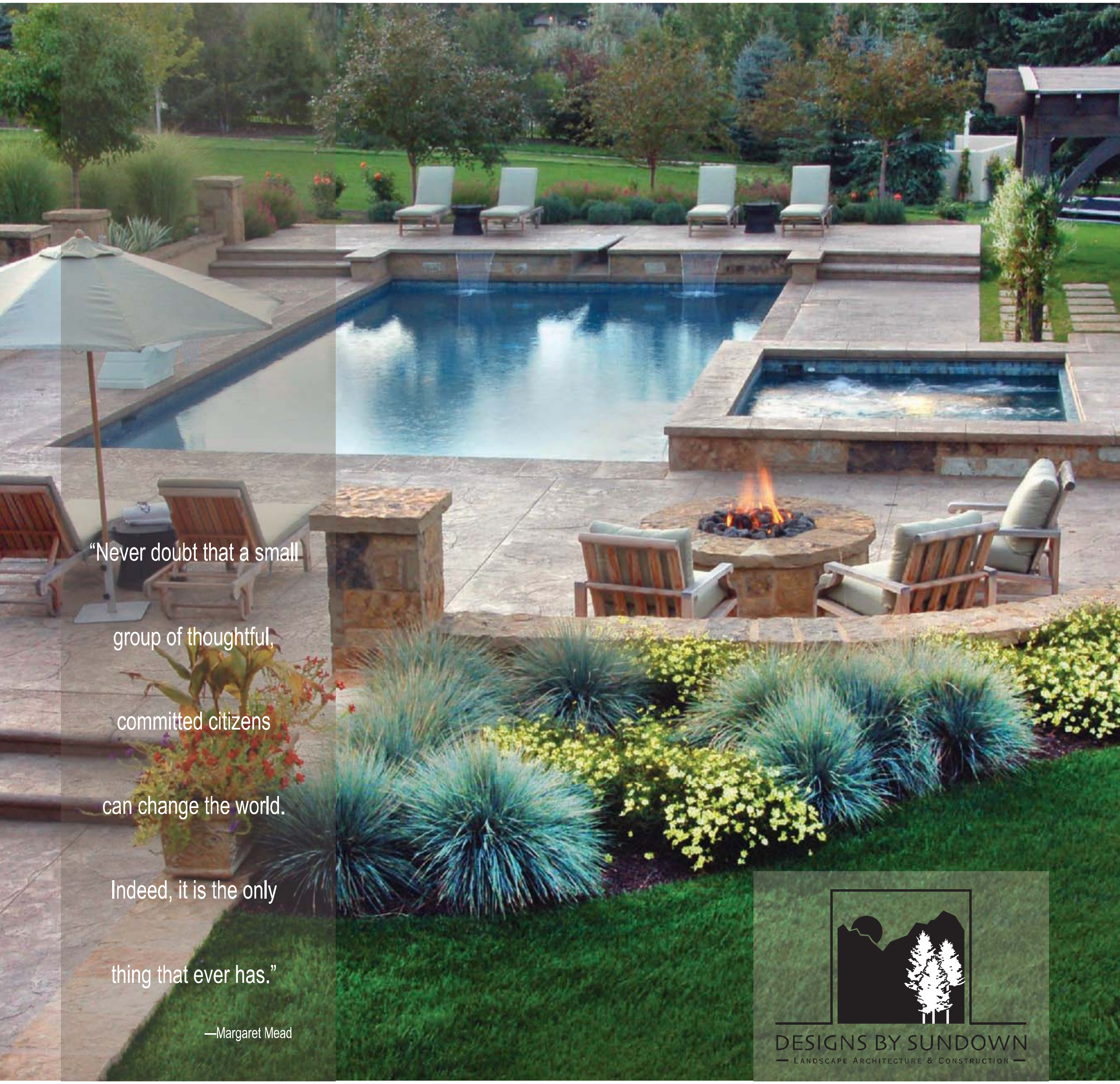

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Photography by Martin Crabb

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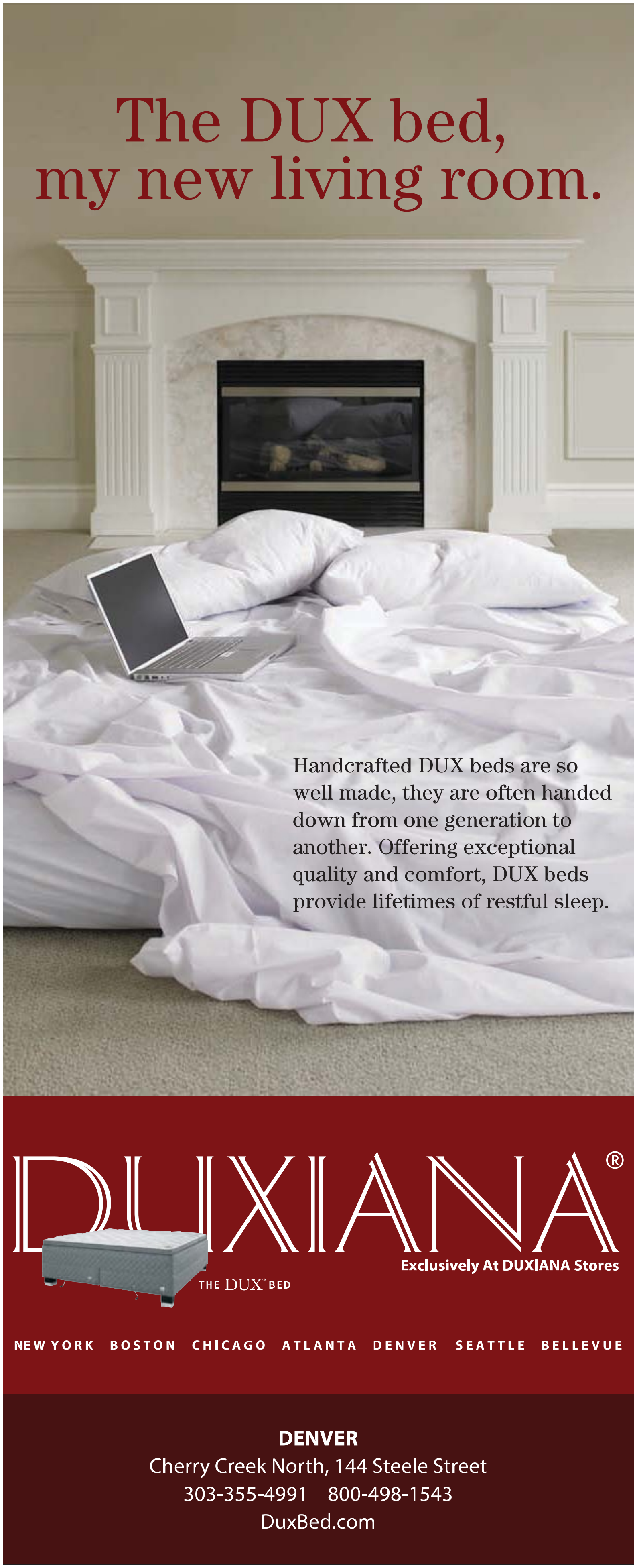
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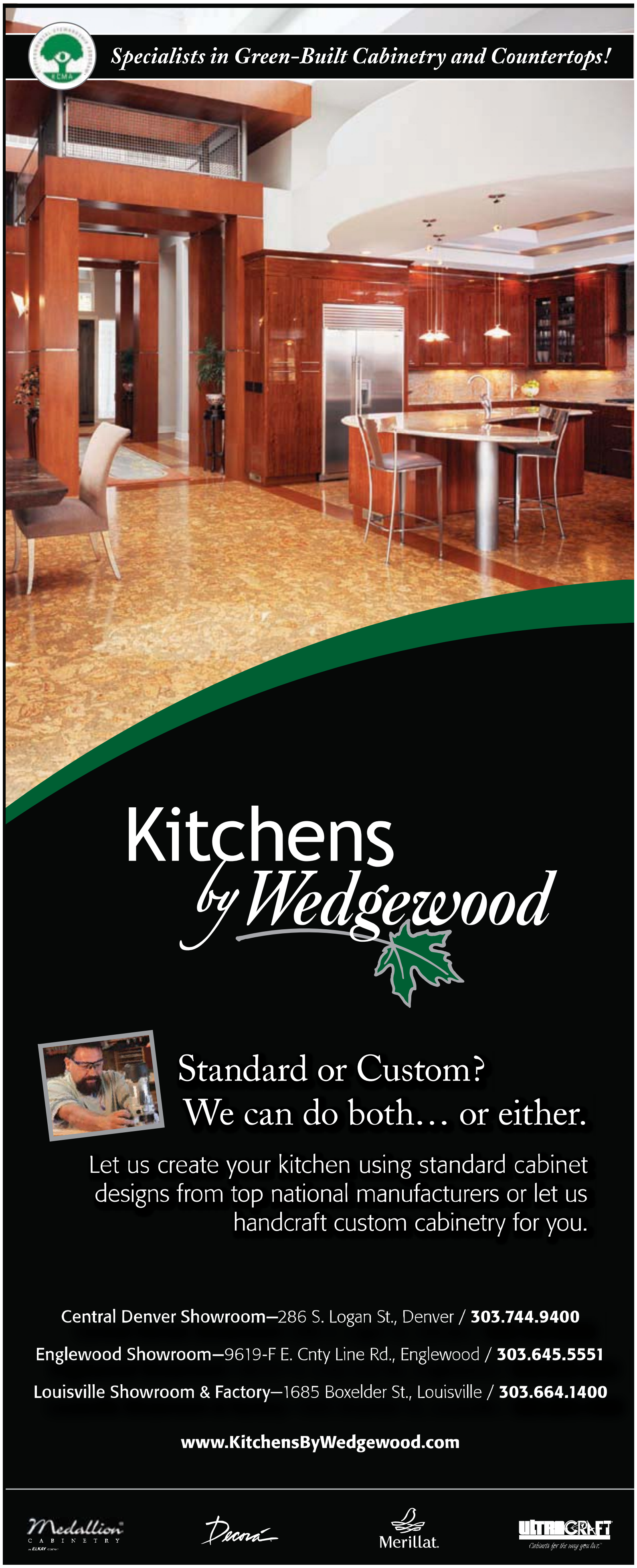
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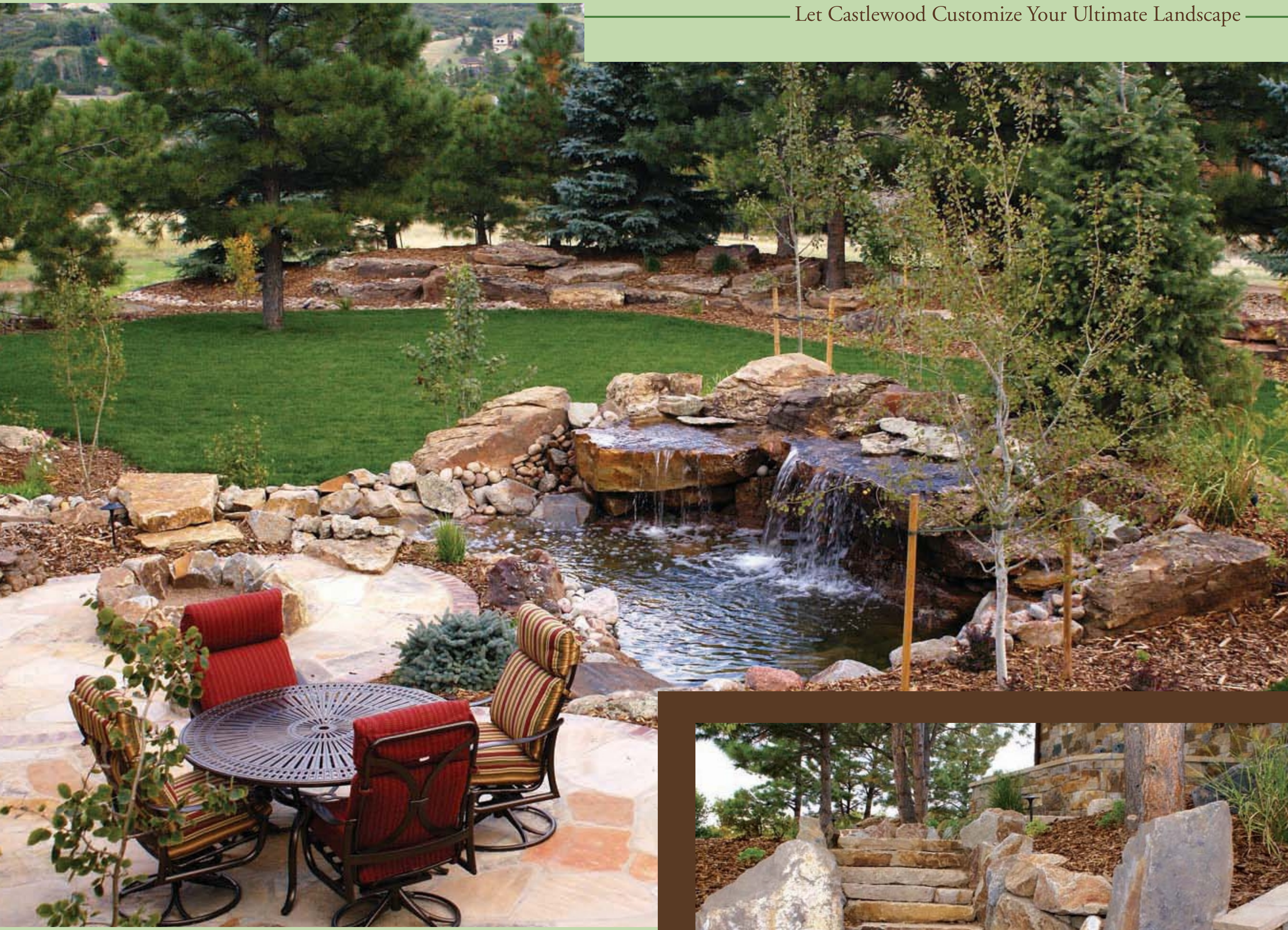

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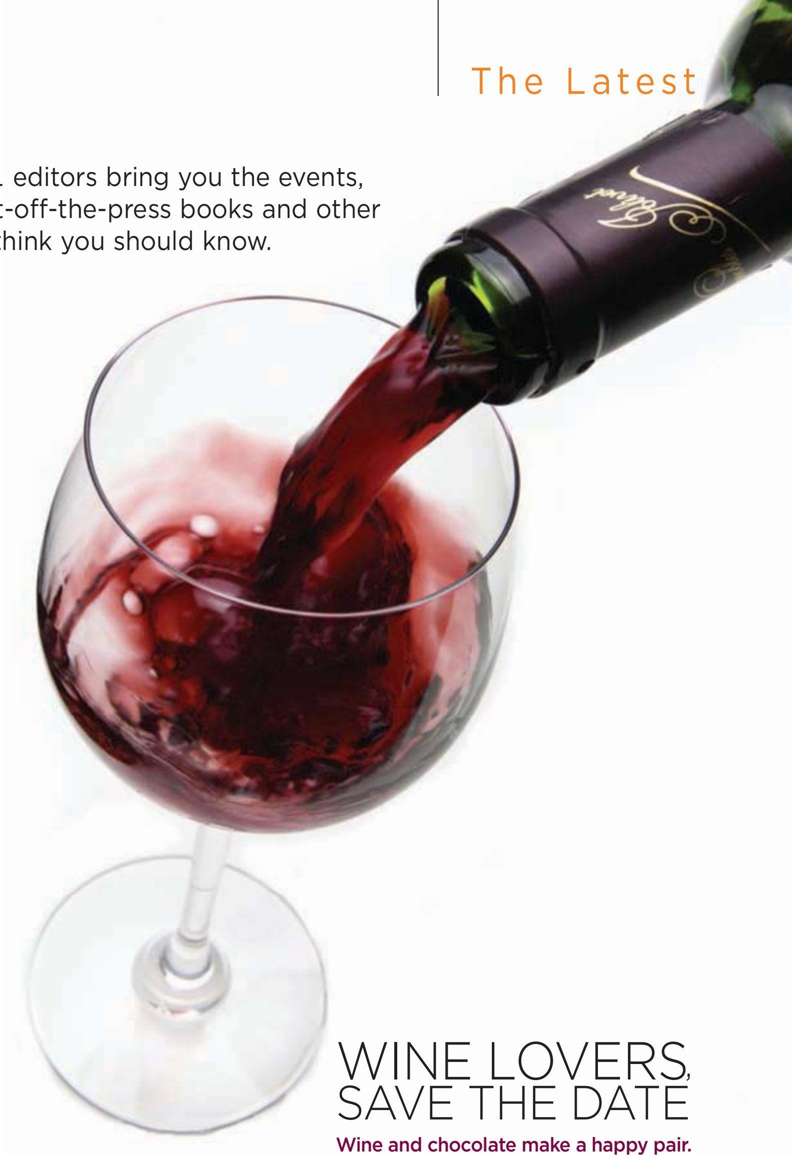
Each month, *CH&L* editors bring you the events, art exhibitions, hot-off-the-press books and other exciting news we think you should know.



LOCAL DISH

Dip your fork into Colorado's bounty during Harvest Week, put on by the Denver Independent Network of Restaurants (DINR). From September 6-12, participating local restaurants will mix it up with offerings that celebrate our state's harvest. To rouse your taste buds: you might start off with Colorado Peaches with Cabrales Cheese Bruschetta at Rioja, then chow down on Mountain Meadows Colorado Lamb Loin Sous-Vide at Strings, all before gratifying your sweet tooth with Carrot Cake Trifle at Table 6. Pore over each restaurant's offerings at eatdenver.com/harvestweek.html.

COOK STREET

COOK UP A STORM

Want to heat up your confidence in the kitchen? Here's a round-up of some of the state's best venues to acquire—or refine—your culinary skills:

The School of Natural Cookery, Boulder: At this offbeat center, learn to cook by intuition and creativity rather than rules or recipes. naturalcookery.com.

Paragon Culinary School, CO Springs: Here, be trained one-on-one by world-class chefs and get the most bang for your buck. coloradoeats.com.

Savory Inn & Cooking School, Vail: Treat yourself to a stay at the romantic lodge and enjoy the Inn's delectable cuisine before you try your own hand at recipes easy to take home. (970) 476-1304.

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Cook Street School of Fine Cooking, Denver: Take the Local Bounty series and learn about Colorado's best foods, including artisan cheeses and Front Range mushrooms. cookstreet.com.

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Spend your Labor Day weekend enjoying the finer things in Vail during Gourmet on Gore. Stroll through Vail Village galleries, groove to live music and sample the region's best wine, beer, spirits and food—all in Vail Village. Admission is free. For more information, visit gourmetongore.com. □

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John Broening, Executive Chef, and Yasmin Lozada-Hissom, Pastry Chef, Duo Restaurant and Olivéa Restaurant

By Nancy Richman Milligan Photography by Martin Crabb

The first question everyone asks this dynamic culinary duo is, "Who does the cooking at home?" While Broening hand-crafts flavorful dishes with fresh local ingredients for Mediterranean-inspired Olivéa Restaurant in Capitol Hill and creates imaginative new-American cuisine at Duo Restaurant in the Highlands, at home he prefers to unwind and enjoy a simple meal prepared by his wife. "I get my fill of cooking at work," says Broening, an award-winning chef who was raised in France. "Yasmin does the majority of cooking at home." Lozada-Hissom is a renowned pastry chef at the same restaurants, whipping up mouth-watering desserts for Denver diners. "Her desserts are the highlight of the meal," her husband says.

At home, Lozada-Hissom draws from her South American background (she was born in Venezuela and grew up in Peru) and experience living in Italy and France to guide her culinary forays. "What I cook at home is very simple and uncomplicated...soups or a quick pasta with garlic, some cherry tomatoes and basil from the garden," she says. "John also enjoys Venezuelan cuisine. The daily meal there consists of *arepas*—round corn cakes that can be stuffed with anything from meat to cheese." (Find the recipe for *arepas* on the next page.) ▷

"We always have several jars of Ortiz anchovies at home, where we use them in salads, pastas, and even on a fresh piece of bread," Lozada-Hissom says. "You'll be converted to anchovies if you taste this one." (The hand-packed anchovies are available at Whole Foods and come with the fork.)

"We both grew up seeing our moms cook with cast-iron pots by Le Creuset," Broening says. "Yasmin's brother Gustavo gave us a set of stainless steel Le Creuset pots and pans for a wedding gift. It has everything that we need."

"As a pastry chef I have a commercial mixer at work, but I was crazy about this KitchenAid stand mixer and wanted one at home," Lozada-Hissom says. "One day John showed up with a big box and it was this mixer. It's like having my favorite toy."

"This ceramic knife cuts tomatoes like they are butter and it never needs to be sharpened," Broening says of his Kyocera knife. His wife adds, "Everyone chuckles the first time they use it because it looks like a toy, but it is quite real."

"I love the precision of this Mac Japanese chef knife," Broening says. "I keep a set of them at the restaurant and this one at home."

AREPAS

2 1/2 cups lukewarm water
1 tablespoon vegetable oil or melted butter
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 cups arepa flour (pre-cooked white cornmeal: P.A.N. or Goya)

Combine water, salt, oil (or butter) in a bowl. Sprinkle in the arepa flour, mixing until well incorporated. Let rest for a couple of minutes covered with a damp towel. The dough will continue to stiffen slightly.

Make patties the size of a small, thin burger and place on a hot, large nonstick or cast-iron skillet over medium heat until golden on both sides. Place in a parrillita or toaster-oven preheated to 375 degrees. Arepas are ready once they puff and produce a hollow sound when tapped. Split open and fill with queso fresco and good butter. Use your imagination to stuff the insides of the arepas (beef, chicken, pork, avocado, etc.).

"John and I really love coffee. We drink it morning and night," Lozada-Hissom says. "This Jura Capresso coffee machine makes the most delicious cup of coffee with a nice crema. With one touch of the button, it does everything—grinds, tamps and brews the coffee."

"I would rather use this parrillita than the most sophisticated toaster," says Lozada-Hissom of the simple metal tool used to toast bread on top of the stove. "This particular one belonged to my mom, who gave it to me when I left Venezuela. It's like having a little piece of home."

Home for this pair is a 100-year-old Tudor house where they dine late at night on the backyard patio—"our little oasis from the world," Lozada-Hissom calls it. Their kitchen is relatively small, not at all the high-tech "chef's kitchen" one might imagine. "We have a great stove—that is essential for us," she says. "We have the tools we need without going over the top with gadgets."

In addition to working six or seven days a week, this creative couple also pursues interests in writing (Broening does a food column for the *Denver Post*) and photography. "We would love to collaborate on a cookbook," Broening says. "That would be a lot of fun." □

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Hosting an event and in need of a savory appetizer? Go to coloradohomesmag.com for another dish from Broening and Lozada-Hissom: Mediterranean Tomato Salad, a fresh take on an old favorite.

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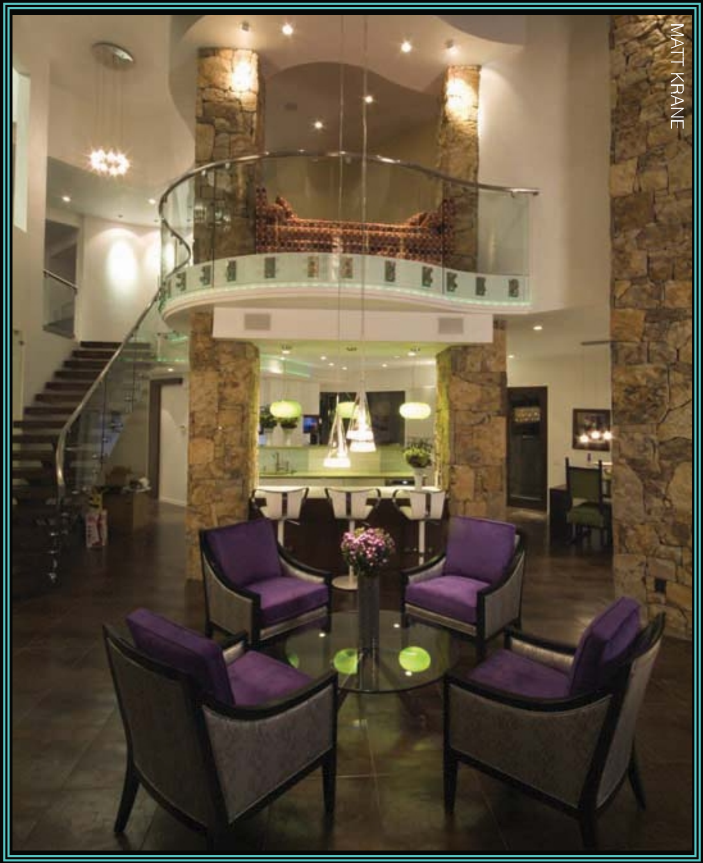

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Fall gets Fresh

With a mix of punchy colors and lively pieces, design consultant Rochelle Walden shows that sometimes, summer can—and should—linger into fall.

By Caroline Eberly
Photography by Kimberly Gavin

GET THE LOOK

BARK VASE BY MICHAEL ARAM Slifer Designs, Edwards, sliferdesigns.com.

ATRIUM FLATWARE Horchow, horchow.com.

12" JAGGED CRACKLE PLATE BY FRONT OF THE HOUSE Real.Life.Basic, reallifebasic.com.

COTTON PRINT NAPKINS BY NOW DESIGNS The Cupboard, Ft. Collins, thecupboard.net.

ACACIAWARE WAVE BOWL BY PACIFIC MERCHANTS The Cupboard, Ft. Collins, thecupboard.net.

MERCHANDISE CONSULTANT ROCHELLE WALDEN worked with Fort Collins kitchen boutique The Cupboard to design this snappy, autumnal spread—a fresh take on a fall gathering for four. You won't find the usual pumpkins, cornucopias and fallen-leaf-inspired colors here. Instead, Walden introduced a surprising combination of fall colors—updated with blues and greens—that brings new energy to the season. The fabrics and plates feel true to fall, but also remind us of the bright, abundant days of summer. "There's a season in between summer and fall for reflecting, and it kind of combines the two," says Walden, whose design forays have included staging events, interior decorating, and working with stores like The Cupboard to select products and create displays.

To create a festive tablescape like this one at home, try mixing new items with some of your old favorites, Walden advises, for "a non-fussy way to go about celebrating." Here, beautiful jeweled serving spoons rest near an old copper pot pulled from the kitchen. You might also go for a variety of ethnic influences. In this spread, English-garden-inspired white plates from Sophie Conran pair with Japanese plates from Kotobuki Trading, chosen for their rough edges and organic appeal. Each plate is "almost like a pot from the garden," the designer says. For flower arrangements, use varieties that grow nearby. (Paul Wood Florist assembled flowers and grasses native to Fort Collins.)

And lastly, don't forget something edible (like twisted breadsticks), which Walden says will send your guests a message of welcome: "Come to the table, enjoy, relax, and we'll get the rest of the food to you soon." □

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We find the rooms that feel *just right*—and then show you how to get the look.

BY SARAH ANN NOEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIMBERLY GAVIN

WHERE IT BEGAN: Designer Jane Cotter, of Edwards-based Slifer Designs, carefully navigated a client's bold, vivacious tastes to pair traditional pieces with punchy, modern colors for a "Hollywood meets East Coast" dining room.

The design began with the Schumacher wallpaper, which features a lattice pattern of bright green—a stunning marriage of traditional sophistication and bold modernity. From there, the room spoke through fabrics. "The inspiration for the room was driven by the clients," Cotter says, "and the fabrics are really representative of the family. The prints are alive, bright, but still functional. It's a room they're happy to come home to."

PERFECT TOUCHES: If the fabrics and colors were the driving force of the room, it was the finishing touches that perfected the ensemble. While the Guy Chaddock table and sideboard are gorgeous, the paintings from Walker Fine Art by Miani Carnevale *(left)* and Don Quade add a modern flair. Drapes by Robert Allen play an important role, adding yet another pop of color but also playing up the room's sophistication.

STYLE GUIDE: Looking to combine traditional pieces with color? Consider Cotter's advice: "With bold statement colors like greens and oranges, but traditional pieces, you have to be careful to avoid comical combinations," she says. You can also make a statement with lighting. Here, Cotter uses modish lamps throughout the room to add to the up-to-date feel, and the space is topped off with a distinctive chandelier. Natural light plays its part, too. The gauzy drapes add enough substance to frame exquisite views while allowing sunlight to add to the freshness of the bright room.

Although this space draws style from the coasts, there is plenty of elegant modern design to be found closer to home. We asked Cotter to round up a collection of products available here in Colorado to help you get the look. Turn the page to see her picks. ▷

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Want this look? Go online to ColoradoHomesMag.com to see a complete list of items found in this room.

GET THE LOOK

GALAXY CHANDELIER BY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS Eight long arms, each finished in satin brass, extend wide for ample radiance. Slifer Designs, Edwards, *sliferdesigns.com*.

NIXON WALLPAPER BY JONATHAN ADLER Take your pick from 24 different patterns and colors (or custom-create your own hue) to add a fun, graphic punch to any room. Jonathan Adler, *jonathanadler.com*.

***VIEW FROM ABOVE* BY DON QUADE** The fresh colors and soft geometrics of this 36-by-36-inch contemporary painting provides a point of punctuation to a dining or living room. Walker Fine Art, Denver, *walkerfineart.com*.

SYLVIA DINING CHAIR BY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS This high-back dining chair outdoes its petite counterparts in comfort and presence. Available in armless, too. Slifer Designs, Edwards, *sliferdesigns.com*.

TURKISH MOHAIR AND WOOL RUG Ground a room in traditional luxury. Shaver-Ramsey, Denver, shaver-ramsey.com.

MILLING ROAD CONSOLE TABLE BY BAKER Handsome dark hardwood, stylish ball feet, dark brass knobs and six delicately carved legs make this piece distinctive. Slifer Designs, Edwards, *sliferdesigns.com*.

SAXON LAMP BY RESTORATION HARDWARE A classic lamp sculpted from solid crystal can mix and match with a variety of shades (English-barrel shade shown here). Restoration Hardware, Denver, *restorationhardware.com*. □

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A Serendipitous Discovery

(left) Liane Clasen and her husband make good use of the home's commodious outdoor space on sunny Denver days. "The front patio is almost like another room," Clasen says.

(right) With its sleek stucco-and-wood exterior and well-apportioned lot, this contemporary home in Denver's Cherry Creek North neighborhood won over the homeowners immediately. The home was designed by Brooks Bond & Associates and built by Paragon Homes, both based in Denver.

Recognizing that some things are meant to be, a Denver-based couple trades in their traditional style for a contemporary home they just couldn't resist.

TWO YEARS AGO, LIANE CLASEN AND HER HUSBAND ROBERT happened upon a house that had been built on spec but appeared tailor-made for them: a perfect kitchen, an open floor plan well-suited for entertaining, enough yard space for a rose garden, and amenities that felt completely and utterly theirs. It was kismet.

The Clasens, Southern Californians who once favored a more traditional aesthetic, moved into the contemporary four-bedroom house in Denver's Cherry Creek North neighborhood last summer. With interior design help from the West Coast, they've made this house a home with sleek furnishings, soft textures and a bit of sparkle.

By Elisabeth Sullivan   Photography by Emily Minton Redfield

CH&L: So this is your first contemporary home. What attracted you to it?

Liane Clasen: We fell in love with it at first sight. We were just out for a walk early one morning and we walked by this house and said, 'That's it.' And then when we saw the interiors, it was a double 'that's it.' We knew right away.

A major selling point for us was that my husband is CEO of an entertainment media company, and after we looked around the whole house, we went down in the basement and it had a home theater. We love to be able to invite people over to see the movies that his company is making and then follow that up with a dinner.

It was meant to be.

Absolutely. It was so meant to be that I asked for the closing date to be February 14th. We had the closing on Valentine's Day and had a big celebration here with red heart-shaped balloons, chocolates and a bottle of champagne, so it was perfect.

Did you start from scratch with furnishings to match your newly contemporary tastes?

We did. It was really part of the appeal because we'd worked with an interior designer in California, Jan Turner Hering, over the years, and it was an opportunity to do another project with

In the living and dining rooms, the open floor plan coupled with a muted color palette gives the home an airy, elegant feel. Soft upholstered seating and a weighty pedestal dining table encourage gathering—and lingering. "It's a great party house," Clasen says. The orchids on the piano and fresh gardenias throughout the house are from Twisted Tulip in Denver. *(opposite)* The living room, a study in softness and symmetry, is Clasen's favorite room in the home. "It has wonderful morning light and a great feel in the evening when you want to curl up in front of the fireplace," she says.

her. In terms of the style and scale of furnishings, what we had just wouldn't work. This is a very soft version of contemporary. There's a lot of texture, a lot of wood and almost, maybe to sound clichéd, a Zen-like feel to it.

You seem to have brought a bit of California with you, with the peaceful blue tones and serene sandy palette.

Yes, it's like the ocean coming in or something. But we also get a lot of blue sky in Colorado, so it works!

Let's talk about the kitchen because I think I could live in it. It's just beautiful.

It's beautiful and it works. I don't know how else to say it. The layout is so well done. I love to cook and it's a great kitchen to cook in. The builder did all of the right appliances, the Sub-Zero fridge, a nice, big stainless-steel sink and the traditional windows over the sink so you can be working and hear the birds singing outside.

And it's got that huge center island. You can be there preparing something and still visit with friends and family. It's a good perching place. We eat most breakfasts and even a casual dinner there because it's just so easy.

Finding a Place for Everything

CONTEMPORARY KITCHENS are designed with style and function in mind. They're sleek, they're minimalist and they work. In other words, the traditional kitchen's "everything drawer" has evolved into separate, designated drawers that hold everything from spices to stock-pots. In place of lower-level cabinets—which inevitably force at-home chefs to get down on all fours and dig for the double boiler—many contemporary kitchens feature pull-out storage.

Denver-based homeowner Liane Clasen is a big fan of her drawer-heavy kitchen storage scheme. "Drawers are easy," she says. "In some ways, they're easier than cabinets because you just pull a drawer out and everything's there. Your pots and pans, your big serving pieces—they're easy to access and easy to see."

An avid cook, Clasen enjoys this well-appointed kitchen. Sleek cabinets, modern hardware, stainless steel fixtures and polished concrete countertops come together for a stylish, urban feel. And a double wall-oven, deep under-mount sink, cavernous Sub-Zero refrigerator and expansive island make the room an efficient hub for entertaining. The breakfast nook's shiny, spherical chandelier is a kicky touch in the streamlined kitchen; it softens the room's right angles and adds a bit of sparkly glamour. Seemingly endless storage—much of it in drawer form—hides clutter and keeps the homeowners organized.

To echo wood accents elsewhere in the family room and adjoining kitchen, designer Jan Turner Hering installed a warm wooden wall of cabinetry and desk space. "Even though we have our own office upstairs, when our kids and grandkids come to visit, they can sit there and go online or I can look up recipes," Clasen says. "It's just very convenient."

Tell me about that chandelier in the breakfast nook.

When we first saw it, we couldn't decide if we loved it or not because it has almost a '60s disco ball feel to it and we wondered if it rotated. But very quickly we decided that we loved it. It brings that corner to life. It's on a rheostat so you can make it bright and sparkly or turn it way down so it becomes almost like candlelight.

From an enviably efficient and stylish kitchen to clean-lined, cozy furnishings, this house really came together.

Actually, we compare it to my husband's business, where you could have a great script, a great director and great actors, and the magic doesn't happen. You can have the same thing with a house—a great lot, a great architect and a great builder—but it doesn't always come together. In this case, it felt like it really did. Whatever that magic is—that sort of chemistry that makes a house really work—this one has it.□

DESIGN DETAILS

Architect
Brooks Bond & Associates
Denver, (303) 355-3429

Builder
Paragon Homes
Denver, (303) 629-9751

Interior Design
Jan Turner Hering
Jan Turner Hering Interior Design,
Corona Del Mar, CA, (949) 640-6512

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(clockwise from top left) When the party ends and the guests depart, Clasen and her husband can retire to this cozy refuge, where deep armchairs beckon the tired hosts to rest. "It's a nice, quiet, serene master bedroom," Clasen says.

The master bedroom uses the home's palette of beiges, creams and blues to great effect. Dreamy colors and soft textures ensure a peaceful night's sleep.

Lucky guests will find themselves ensconced in this guest room's luxurious fabrics and soothing symmetry.

With its sleek vanity, modern sconces and shiny vessel sink, the powder room is suggestive of a boutique hotel.

Defining *Style*

A TIMELESS, RENOVATED KITCHEN IS THE HEART OF A HOME STEEPED IN MEANING AND PERSONAL HISTORY.

LAURIE AND BOBBY SMITH—BOTH CITY PEOPLE WHO GREW UP IN OLD HOUSES—found the perfect setting for their eclectic furnishings in a 1918 Prairie-style Denver home. But there was one catch. "The house was light and roomy and well-designed, except for the kitchen. It didn't have good flow or workspace," says Laurie Smith, who wanted the kitchen to be a family gathering place.

BY NANCY RICHMAN MILLIGAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

The living room is anchored by a curvaceous antique sofa that Laurie Smith inherited from her grandmother. She pairs the piece with ethnic accessories, a Mexican-inspired metal bench and two modern leather chairs. The block prints above the fireplace are by El Paso artist Tom Lea.

(opposite) The antique sofa in the sunroom is part of the furniture collection Laurie Smith's grandparents bought in New Orleans. She pairs it with the flavors of her Texas background: cowhide pillows, a rustic Mexican coffee table, wrought-iron candlesticks and a cactus plant.

Light streams through the sunroom into the dining room. The bright gold-painted walls highlight a stunning French lacquered cabinet, one of many treasured family antiques throughout the home.

"EVERYTHING WE HAVE MEANS SOMETHING TO US. "WE'VE EITHER TRAVELED FAR AND BEYOND TO FIND IT, OR IT'S A BELOVED ANTIQUE HANDED DOWN FROM OUR FAMILIES."

So they planned a major kitchen renovation, never realizing that the room would not only complete the home, but also prove essential to Laurie Smith's career as a food photographer. "The new kitchen is a magical space," she says. "The light is so beautiful and there are gorgeous surfaces like marble and soapstone and wood. It works much better for photography than my former studio."

The primary intent, however, was not to create a place where she would photograph sumptuous dishes for magazines and cookbooks, but to design a more useful and spacious kitchen. The couple hired kitchen designer Mindy Sunday, who carved out more space by removing a wall to the back porch and opening the kitchen to the dining room. "I take what exists and make it bigger, without going up or out," Sunday says. "It's really all about space planning, optical illusions, color and light."

It was important to the designer and her clients to honor the architecture of the house and create a classic look that makes people wonder, "Is it old or new?" The custom Shaker cabinets match the heft of the original window moldings, while inset doors and bin-pulls add to the traditional look. A white lacquer finish pairs elegantly with dark soapstone countertops. The stained sycamore island is topped with timeless Carrera marble.

Among these soothing neutral finishes are hints of the homeowners' colorful personalities. A one-of-a-kind chandelier is a cornucopia of favorite things—bits of rock and shells, crystal and coral. The table is made of a rustic piece of cottonwood that came from an old Mexican wagon; Bobby Smith designed sleek tapered legs for the table to reflect his love of contemporary lines. Colorful artwork expresses Laurie Smith's exuberant sense of style.

(counter clockwise, from left)
"Although it feels large, the kitchen is still relatively small," designer Mindy Sunday says. She made the most of the space by extending cabinets up to the ceiling, installing glass cabinet doors and including nooks for cookbooks.

Brazilian Minas stone, a very dense and maintenance-free material from the soapstone family, tops custom white cabinets. Sunday had the cabinets lacquered rather than painted for a more durable finish. The Shaker-style cabinets complement the original wood trim in the 1918 house.

Above the countertops is a handy pass-through to the butler's pantry, which adds additional storage in a compact space.

The artful chandelier by Tracy Barnes is the focal point of the kitchen. It includes crystals, quartz, shells, personal amulets, candles and coral. "The piece anchors everything," Laurie Smith says. Her eclectic style is evident in the pairing of a weathered wood tabletop with Carrera marble countertops.

"We sleep with the spirits of our ancestors," Laurie Smith says. The carved four-poster bed, adorned with bright, Guatemalan pillows, was inherited from her grandmother. The needlepoint chair upholstery was crafted by Bobby Smith's grandmother. White Meri table lamp from HW Home.

The entire house represents the deep roots these Texan transplants brought with them when they moved to Denver—an intriguing mix of antiques and colorful, ethnic textiles and rustic furnishings. "Everything we have means something to us," Laurie Smith says. "We've either traveled far and beyond to find it, or it's a beloved antique handed down from our families."

Take their daughter's bed, for example, which was brought by covered wagon to Texas for a great-great grandmother. Or a suite of French antiques discovered in New Orleans. Laurie Smith tells the story of her grandparents stopping in Louisiana years ago on the way to a family vacation in Florida: "My grandmother fell in love with some antique Napoleonic furniture and a huge gold leaf mirror," she says. "They couldn't afford the furniture and the vacation, so my grandfather called a meeting with the kids, and they voted to scrap the vacation and buy the furniture for my grandmother."

Today those French antiques are refurbished, reupholstered and happily juxtaposed with rough Mexican mesquite wood, rusted metal objects and colorful textile collections. "An interior designer once told me to get rid of my old Mexican things," Laurie Smith says. "I couldn't do it. We're from El Paso and have traveled all over Mexico. These are our memories."

The homeowner skillfully combines her disparate furnishings, punching up a curvy French sofa with cowhide pillows, adding colorful ethnic textiles to a formal four-poster bed. "I guess I'm sentimental," she says, "but it works for us."□

DESIGN DETAILS

Kitchen Design
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Mindy Sunday Design
(303) 596-8635

For more information about the products in this home, visit ColoradoHomesMag.com

The powder room has a classic, yet updated look. Homeowner Bobby Smith built the clean-lined vanity table and installed glass mosaic tiles in muted shades of taupe and green.

For most of us, the kitchen is command central, the communal hub of the home where the family's most important activities take place. For these five homeowners, the kitchen is all that and much more—a room dedicated to functionality as well as great beauty.

The Perfect Triangle

By Sally Stich
Photography by Emily Minton Redfield

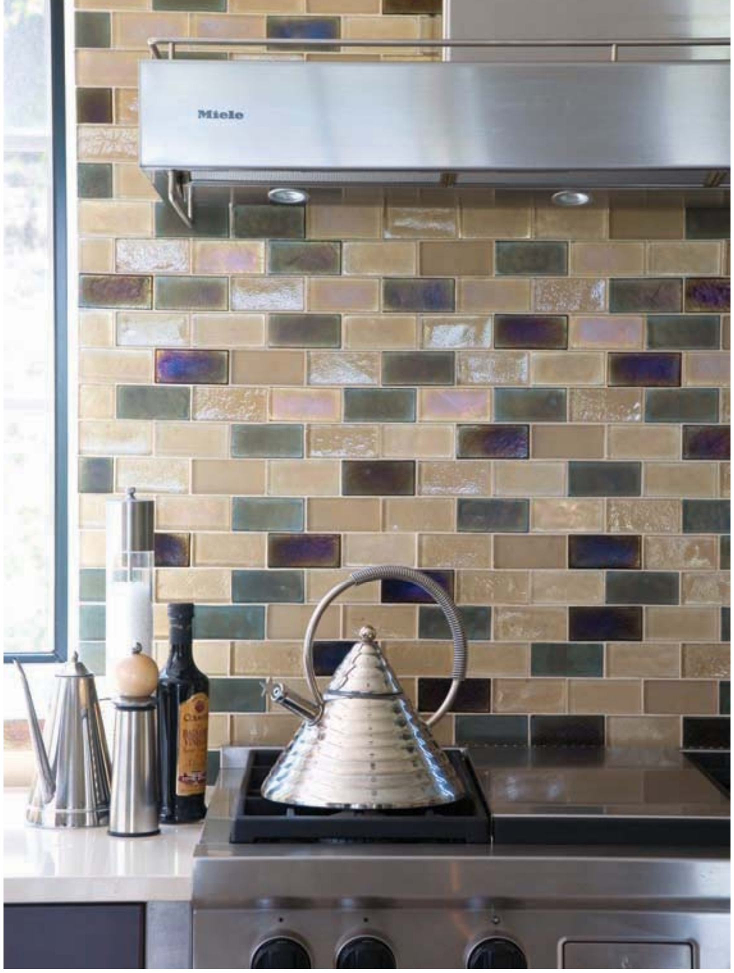
DESIGN GOAL: This Aspen kitchen is a total makeover of an existing kitchen that makes fantastic use of its 336 square feet. "The goal was a contemporary kitchen that was inviting with comfortable, livable colors," says Angela Otten of Wm Ohs. But beyond that, the kitchen had to be usable by more than one cook at a time since the homeowners often invite fellow Texans to come stay and ski with

them in their second home. Otten worked with homeowner Cherie Hassenflu, owner of Savant Design Group, on colors and design details as well as incorporating an eating space that would feature Hassenflu's Knoll table and chairs.

DEFINING DETAIL: "Contemporary" and "comfortable colors" don't often go in the same design scheme, but Hassenflu brought the lower wenge cabinets and the upper rift white oak cabinets together with a multi-colored, glass-tiled backsplash that catches the eye. "I picked out five colors of tiles—some clear, some translucent—and figured out the percentage of each color I wanted to be used on the wall," she says. "Then I told the tiler only the percentages of each and said he could do what he wanted. The final wall was a surprise to me."

WHY IT WORKS: In spite of its not-too-big size, the kitchen functions beautifully because each of the three sinks and the stove are positioned so that no one is ever in someone else's way. "Four of us can be making breakfast," says Hassenflu, "and we do not bump into each other." The color scheme—dark brown, beige and white—creates an inviting environment while the stainless appliances, tambour cabinets and peninsula legs keep it sleek. Though the kitchen's geometry is striking with its horizontal lines, a curved breakfast bar softens the look. And the Faux Bois pottery (from Aspen's Paris Underground) on the floating shelf adds a nice touch of mid-century modern.

Design Details: Angela Otten, Wm Ohs, (303) 321-3232, wmohs.com; Cherie Hassenflu, Savant Design Group, Houston, (832) 689-9880, savantdesign.net.



CLASSIC

Old World Meets Local

By **Sally Stich**
Photography by **Kimberly Gavin**

DESIGN GOAL: Homeowners Dr. Joe and Bonnie Forrester love two things: bicycling and entertaining. So when they built their new home overlooking the Castle Pines Golf Club, they wanted a place that was comfortable but not too casual, elegant but not too formal. "They wanted a retreat after a long day of biking, as well as a place that was great for entertaining," says Terri Rose, kitchen designer with Wm Ohs. What makes this kitchen stand apart from other "Old World" kitchens is the homage it pays to regional materials: sandstone counters, a hand-carved limestone hood and locally made alder cabinets. Because this room has a first-rate view of mountains and trees, designer Patti Steelman of Patti Steelman Interior Finishes Inc. chose colors and textures that reflect the gorgeous scenery outside: pale green walls, an island comprising alder cabinets painted with a hand-glazed-and-crackled finish, ivory-glazed-and-crackled cabinets with a hint of yellow—all against a hand-scraped walnut floor.

DEFINING DETAIL: The hand-carved limestone hood is a knockout focal point in this kitchen, which, because of the architectural layout, demanded that two major appliances—the refrigerator and the stovetop—be on the same wall. "The hood, down-lit by two can lights, glows in the evening," says Steelman. "It simply draws the eye to its beauty." The refrigerator, a Wm Ohs design, works well on the same wall because it appears to be an armoire rather than a bulky appliance.

WHY IT WORKS: The homeowners wanted two work zones—an area for prep and one for storage and clean-up. "The architectural challenge of appliance placement actually worked to their benefit," Rose says, "with the refrigerator, stovetop and prep sink on one side of the island, and storage and the main sink for doing dishes on the other." Upon closer inspection, the stenciling in both coved ceiling areas mirrors the design on the limestone tile backsplash, bringing visual continuity to the space. "I'm very conscious about echoing each major design element," she says, "so that no matter where you are, you're aware of the complementary parts that make up the whole."

Design Details: Terri Rose, Wm Ohs, (303) 321-3232, wmohs.com; Patti Steelman, Patti Steelman Interior Finishes Inc., (720) 270-8791, pattisteelmaninteriors.com.

CONTEMPORARY

Green, Clean and Personal

By Sally Stich
Photography by J. Curtis

DESIGN GOAL: The primary goal of this Boulder kitchen was to mix state-of-the-art green technology with the family's aesthetic vision—sleek, but not impersonal. Designer Eiko Okura worked with Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath to create a compact kitchen (relative to the rest of the home's spaces) that met requirements for energy efficiency and used an array of eco-friendly materials: a sculpturally elegant concrete island (and concrete counters); custom lyptus cabinets made by American Loft Cabinetry; touches of sleek stainless steel; and carbonized bamboo floors. At the family's request, Okura also designed a sloped draining area next to the neatly inset sink, so the homeowners can rinse and drain vegetables or dry dishes.

DEFINING DETAIL: Careful measurements were key. The home belongs to a family of four—two tall parents and two teenaged girls—who love to cook together. "During the planning stages," says the designer, "we had them role-play working in the kitchen all at once and individually. At what height did their wrists rest comfortably on the counters? How far did their arms stretch? If they were holding a pot of water for pasta, how high could they hold it? Every measurement is designed for the family's ease of movement without being out of range for anyone else who might inhabit the house some day."

WHY IT WORKS: The materials are green; the measurements fit the family; the aesthetics are clean. But there are also deeply personal elements woven into the kitchen. Okura designed the lighted space above the oven and refrigerator to showcase the family's art from their life in Europe while an antique armoire opposite the stove top (not shown) creates a classical touch that is also a piece of family history.

Design Details: Eiko Okura, Eiko Okura Interior Design and Feng Shui, (303) 777-5135, eikookura.com; Scott Rodwin, AIA, Rodwin Architecture, (303) 413-8556, rodwinarch.com; Concrete Jungle Design, (719) 694-0691, concretejungledesign.com; Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath, (303) 413-9400, redpepdesign.com.

SLEEK

Delectable Details

By Caroline Eberly
Photography by Emily Minton Redfield

DESIGN GOAL: It's a tall order for the kitchen when husband and wife have large families who live in town, enjoy cooking and entertaining, *and* work in the home design industry. But this remarkable kitchen shows that all things are possible. Sara Cooper and her husband Jason, principal of Iris Building Group, worked with designer Mikal Otten of Exquisite Kitchen Design to dream up this space in their new Denver home.

"They wanted the kitchen space to not only work great for entertaining," Otten says, "but it was to be edgy, sexy and sophisticated." On top of that, adds Sara Cooper, the space needed to be "a real cook's kitchen," and an anchor in a home built around family.

The result is a professional-style setup with Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances, plenty of space to maneuver, enough cool to be interesting and enough warmth to want to linger. "It's almost like a large loft space on the main floor of my house so everyone can be together," Sara Cooper says, "and in addition to being sexy and cool and sleek, it's also rich and warm and inviting."

DEFINING DETAIL: The piano-shaped island, with its luscious contours, takes center stage. "Throughout this home, we have a lot of soffits and curved staircases—there's lots of visual movement. It pretty quickly became clear that the shape of a Steinway would fit really nicely in that space," Otten says. The shapely island mirrors organic curves found in the ceiling, an artistic feature designed by the homeowners themselves.

WHY IT WORKS: In this space, beauty finds its equal in function. Two different work areas ensure that cooking and cleanup are separate from each other—and can happen at the same time. A custom-designed garbage receptacle keeps trash out of sight. Counter space stretches on and on to accommodate buffets at family gatherings, and ample storage space allows the homeowners to keep an extra set of kosher dishes for Passover.

On top of a genius layout, the details are impeccable. From the countertop finish (an antique granite that feels like leather), to the warm palette of woods (wenge for the cabinets, zebrawood for the island), to the bold sculptural range hood—all of the details come together for the Coopers to create a greater whole. "The most incredibly rewarding aspect of building your own home is creating a sense of warmth and family and continuity," Sara Cooper says. "And the kitchen is always the heart of that."

Design Details: Mikal Otten, Exquisite Kitchen Design, (303) 282-0382, myekdesign.com; Jason Cooper, Iris Building Group, (303) 344-4747, theirisgroup.com.

The Red and the Black

BY SALLY STICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY J. CURTIS

DESIGN GOAL: This kitchen, in a new Denver home, was built to highlight the homeowners' contemporary Chinese art collection. The rooms in this house are all open to each other, so the kitchen had to blend seamlessly rather than bring visitors to a screeching halt.

The home also doesn't have a huge footprint, so the kitchen had to be small but efficient, says project designer Roxanne Patterson, who worked with studio3 Kitchen and Bath Design on this space. Driving the design was the husband's recollection of a kitchen with red cabinets that he'd once seen. "He was insistent on red cabinets despite their pricey-ness," Patterson says. And the challenge was finding just the right shade. As luck—and good research—would have it, the Brook Haven cabinet line, by Wood Mode Cabinetry, came in a cinnabar color, perfect in a home with Asian accents. Shiny black granite countertops offer a sharp contrast to the cabinets.

DEFINING DETAIL: The standout design move is the juxtaposition of opposing elements: two strong colors—red and black; two strong textures—wood and stone; and two strong spatial components—intimacy and openness.

WHY IT WORKS: The homeowners wanted a beautiful kitchen but not a "show house" kitchen. They wanted a design that spotlighted art without competing against it. This kitchen does just that. Seen beside the adjoining dining room—with its red walls and red ceiling, black-lacquered-and-glass dining table and chairs, stunning and bold pieces of art—the kitchen works with neighboring spaces to create a sense of cohesion. The room is like a critical chapter in a good book: you couldn't move from one part of the plot to the next without it. □

Design Details: Roxanne Patterson, (303) 881-5309, formerly of Studio3 Kitchen & Bath Design, studio3design.info.

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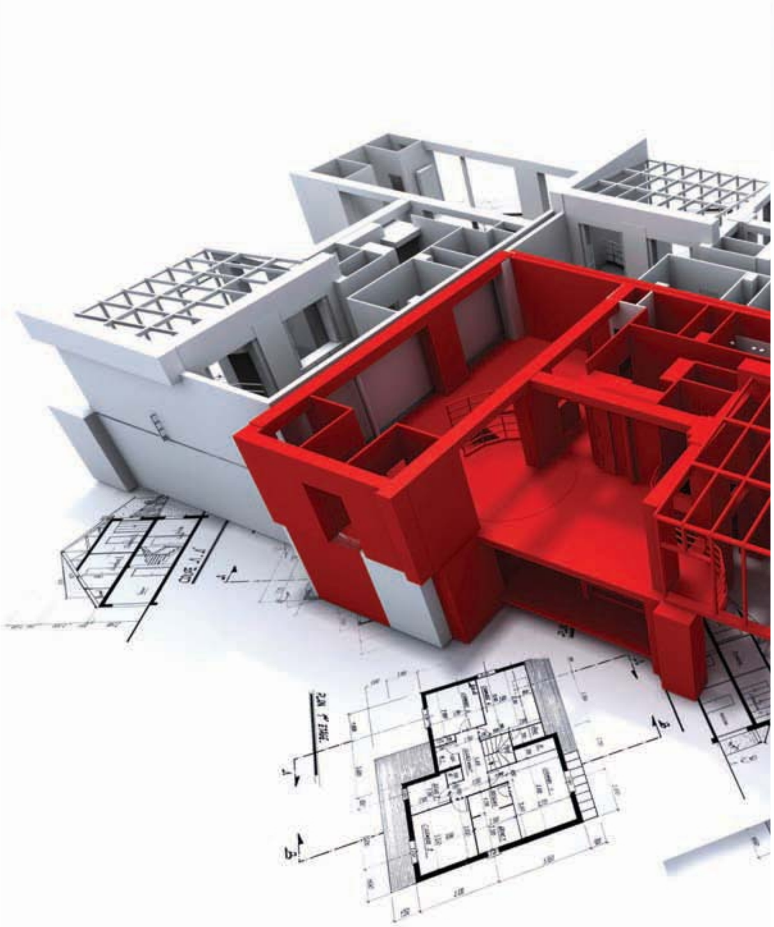

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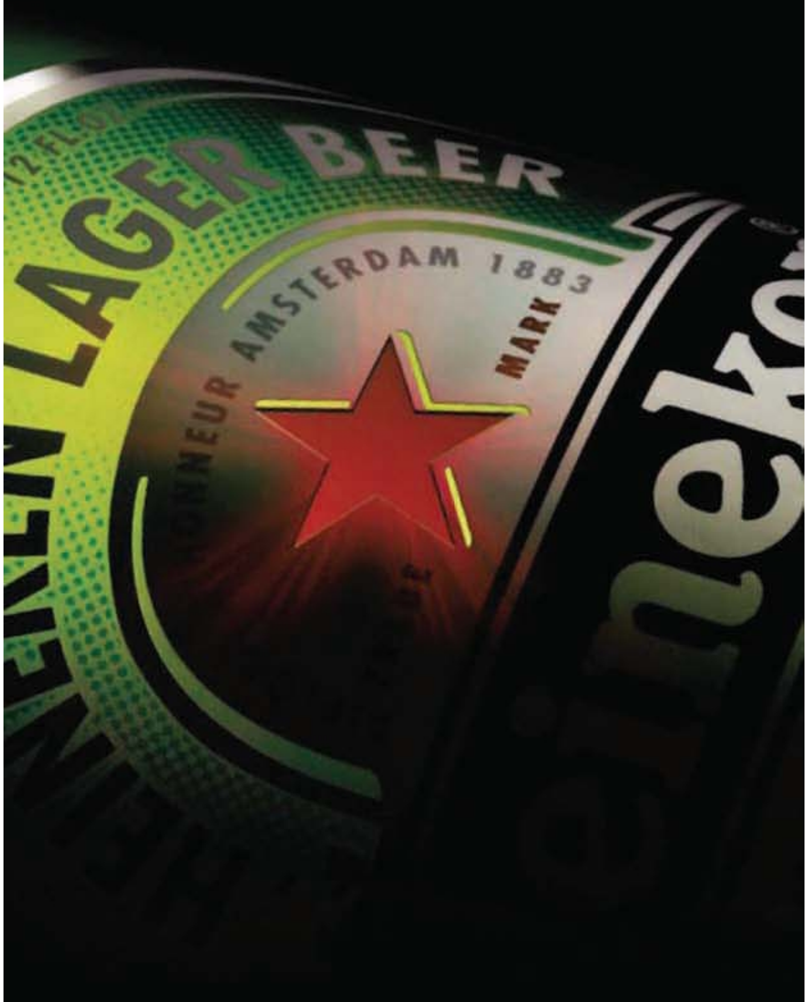

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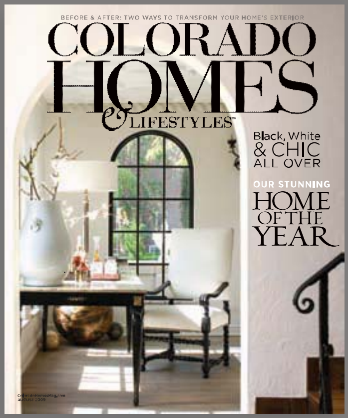

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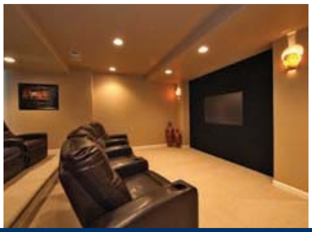
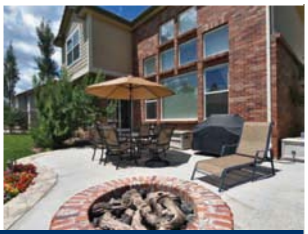

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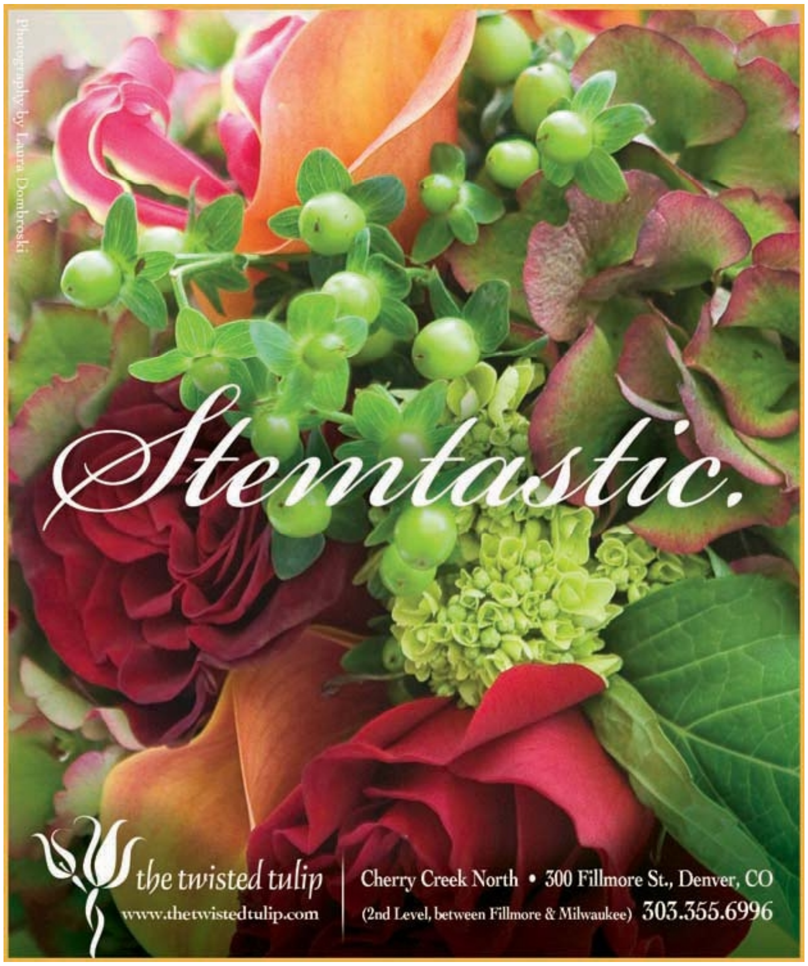

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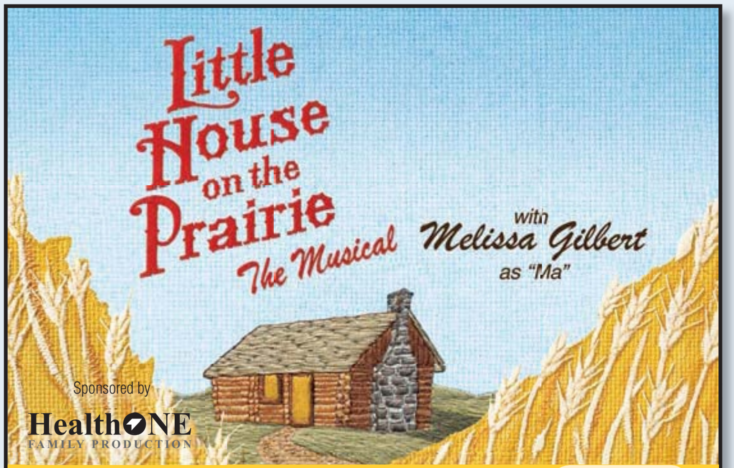

Dec 15 – 27 • Buell Theatre

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DRAMATIC SIMPLICITY

Without a specific client in mind, Olson designed the flat with an element of versatility by mixing textures and geometric shapes against a neutral palette.

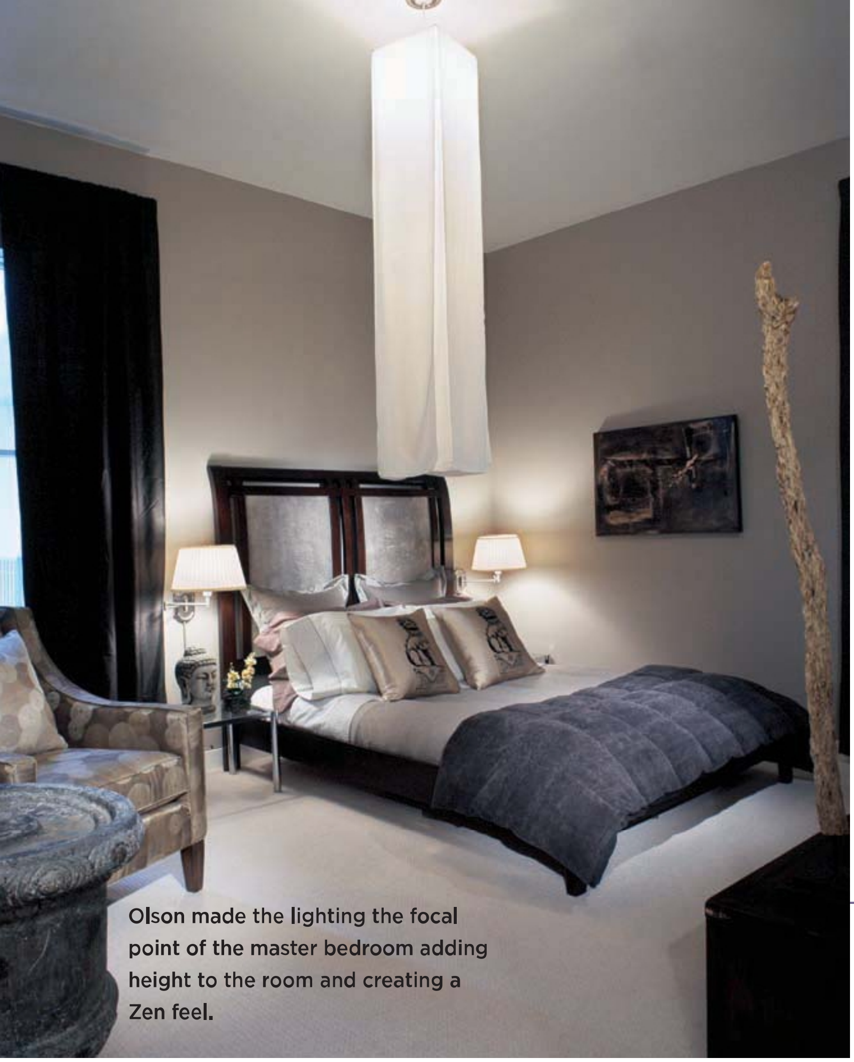
DESIGNER CARLY OLSON CREATES A SOPHISTICATED URBAN FLAT WITH CLEAN LINES, A NEUTRAL PALETTE AND EXQUISITE ART.

BY **KATLYN SMITH** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JASON JUNG**

AS INTERIOR DESIGNER CARLY OLSON BEGAN TO ENVISION a layout for this Denver residence—the sale of which will benefit the Kempe Foundation, a local nonprofit that fights childhood abuse—she knew one quality was essential to her design: sophistication. After studying in Europe, the designer was inspired by boutique hotels with their distinctive style and well-traveled feel. Although the space is intentionally gender neutral, Olson aimed to please a particular type of client. "This place is meant for a well-traveled person whose home is in Denver, but who stops at home en route to another place," she says.

Olson's approach began with color—or the absence of it—throughout the entire residence. Various shades of gray provide warmth in each room and add to the serene sophistication of the flat. "I love color and do a lot of things with it, but I wanted to do a space that was all neutral to show how classic and beautiful it can be," she says.

The neutral palette helps the layout flow from room to room, but each space is unique, anchored by a strong design element. Take the living room, which is designed around a faux-finished wall. The wall could have been wallpapered with far less effort, Olson points out, but the faux finish—created by Robin Munro and called an Asian tile effect—provides a European flavor. Created by molding plaster into tall, skinny brick tiles, the accent wall gives the impression of a bamboo covering. "The room needed something dramatic in terms of art and technique—not color," Olson says. The space is furnished with a tweed-and-leather sofa that provides a feminine flair, balanced by a rectangular chair covered in gold-and-brown fabric from Ashley Campbell.



Olson made the lighting the focal point of the master bedroom adding height to the room and creating a Zen feel.

Olson emphasizes geometric details like those found in the faux-finish wall throughout the space. Both furniture and art, from the custom tile backsplash in the kitchen done by Evergreen Glass, Inc. to the furniture's sleek lines and geometric details, contain angular elements that add flair. In the master bedroom, an elongated light is the focus of the space. Made of white fabric, the fixture appears to heighten the room. "I wanted it to be simple, calm, and very Zen, which is why it's stark white and flowy." To warm the room, Olson introduced cherry wood furniture. The starburst pattern of the twisted taupe upholstered chair from Ashley Campbell ties the colors of the room together, adding a playful touch.

Throughout the flat, Olson combines simple touches such as a neutral palette and geometric details for a look of clean sophistication. The design is versatile and timeless, allowing future homeowners plenty of room to express their style, the designer says. "I love clean design because it gives you room to grow into the space, and the whole idea behind working with a client is to make it theirs." □

CO Design Lab, (303) 726-0544, idesigncarly.com.

Proceeds from the sale of this home benefit the Kempe Foundation. To schedule a tour of the home or for more information, call (303) 777-7037.

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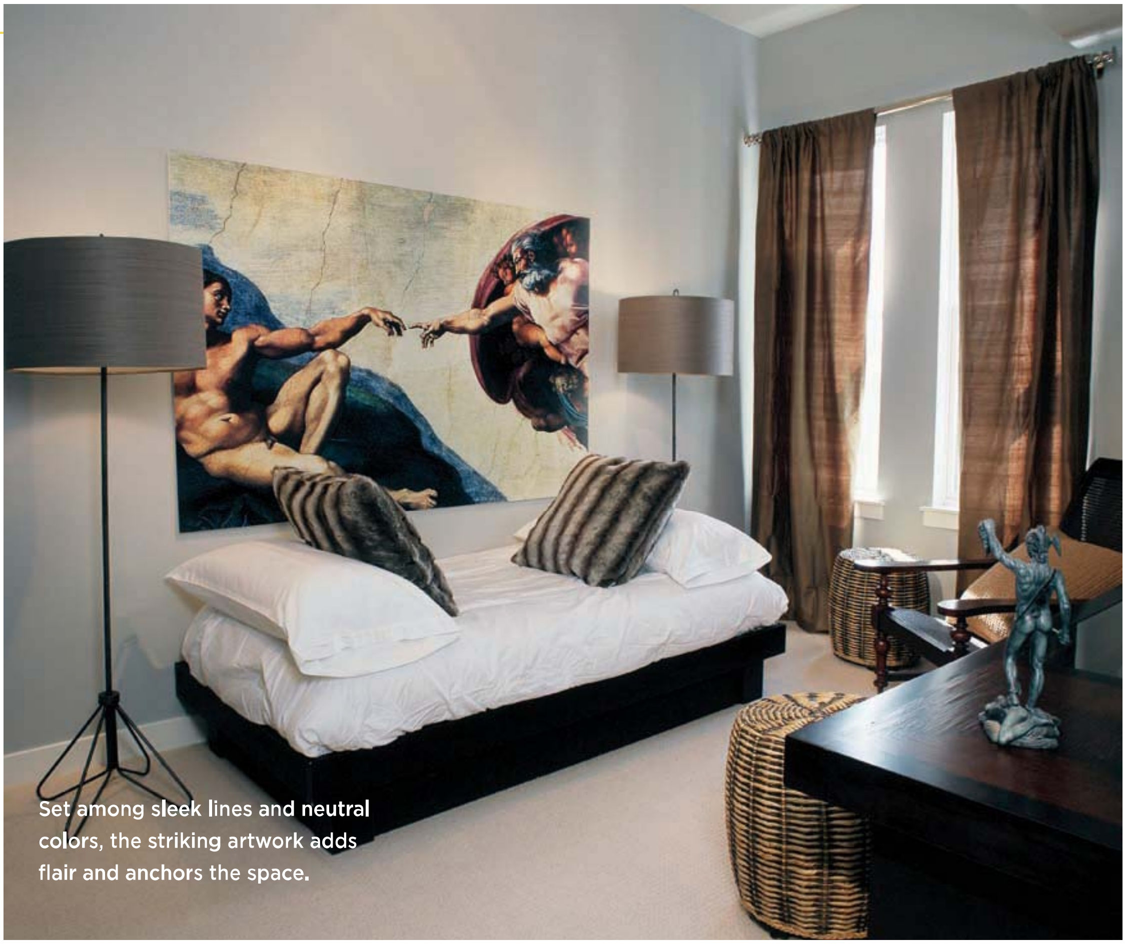

Set among sleek lines and neutral colors, the striking artwork adds flair and anchors the space.

GET THE LOOK IN ASPEN:

KITCHEN ACCESSORIES Using glass containers in the kitchen is both functional and beautiful. The color and texture of the contents within become easy accents for any kitchen. *The Kitchen Store, 970.927.3634*

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GLASSKOTE BACKSPLASH GlassKote backsplashes are a great eco-friendly option for adding rich color to your kitchen. *EvergreenGlassInc.com*

FAUX FINISH Faux finishing provides European flavor and adds drama with texture rather than strong color. *Munromasterpiece.com*

MODERN BAR STOOL This stool's sleek lines, paired with a chrome metal frame and white vinyl seat, work to give any space a clean, chic look. *MontecitoLoftandHome.com*

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Kempe

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